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ABSTRACT

This guide is designed to assist teachers of multi-age K-2 classrooms in organizing and implementing their classrooms effectively. Section 1, "Understanding the Multi-Age Classroom," describes characteristics of such classrooms, including relevant classroom models, incorporating kindergarten students, grouping students, and developing specific routines. Section 2, "Using Literature," presents suggestions for using children's literature in theme-based teaching and recommends specific books. Section 3, "Language Arts," includes class activities and several forms for teachers' use. Section 4, "Math," contains suggestions for activities from the Nuffield Mathematics Project, the whole-class approach, team teaching, small groups and centers, and the laboratory method. Section 5, "Using Centers," discusses how to design effective centers and megacenters, arrange the classroom, and select materials, and presents activities for several different types of centers. Section 6, "Flannel Board Activities," outlines the effective use of flannel boards for literature-based play and includes patterns for teachers' use. Section 7, "Using Technology," suggests software for use in primary level multi-age classrooms. Section 8, "Assessment," discusses the use of portfolio assessment and anecdotal records and includes forms for teachers' use. Section 9, "Preparing for a Substitute Teacher," recommends information for placement in a substitute folder and covers the issue of classroom management. Section 10, "Lesson Plans," presents an abbreviated daily schedule for use in multi-age classrooms. Section 11, "Behavior Management," discusses how grouping of students and learning centers control student behavior, and describes procedures for dealing with disruptive students. A final section addresses commonly asked questions regarding multi-age primary grade classrooms and suggests further reading. (KDFB)